

# Report

Report to:	<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>17 September 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>The Transition to Decarbonised Fleet Electric Vehicles</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee with the position on electric vehicles within the Council's fleet

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) note the progress made in increasing the number of electric vehicles within the Council's fleet

## 3. Background

3.1. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places duties on the public sector to contribute to meeting targets outlined in the Act and it is expected that the public sector provides a leadership function in its approach to climate change. This includes taking a lead on the decarbonisation of road transport by adopting low or zero emission vehicles and promoting the use of such vehicles throughout South Lanarkshire.

3.2. Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2019-2020 stated that we should 'phase out petrol and diesel cars from our public sector fleet and phase out the need for any new petrol and diesel light commercial vehicles by 2025'. Transport Scotland has administered the Switched on Fleets (SoF) fund for a number of years on behalf of Scottish Government. The fund is available to public sector organisations to bid for grant monies to either purchase or lease ultra low emissions vehicles.

3.3. South Lanarkshire Council has utilised this SoF fund for a number of years to lease small electric cars and vans within the Council's fleet. Our current fleet consists of 1,415 vehicles and plant, of which 598 are cars and small vans. Before the 2019-2020 grant, the Council operated 37 electric vehicles (approx. 6% of small fleet). Most of these have been funded by the SoF grants.

3.2. Funding for previous years is as follows –

• 2014/15	£ 121,000	13 small vehicles on 3 year lease
• 2016/17	£ 64,000	7 small vehicles on 3 year lease
• 2017/18	£ 34,000	3 small vehicles on 3 year lease
• 2018/19	£ 242,000	21 small vehicles on 3 year lease

\* some of the vehicles procured in later years replaced older electric vehicles at the end of their lease

#### **4. Switched on Fleets Fund 2019-2020**

- 4.1. In June 2019, the Council was offered £165,000 to lease more small electric vehicles. Subsequent negotiations with Transport Scotland resulted in this being increased to £193,000 to lease 24 electric Renault Zoes. It was agreed with the Fleet Manager that the 24 vehicles would be used throughout the Council's fleet to replace existing electric vehicles approaching the end of their lease or replace diesel equivalent vehicles.
- 4.2. Transport Scotland approached the Council in February 2020 to ask if we would be interested in bidding for additional SoF funding for light vehicles. We placed a bid to replace all our pool cars with electric vehicles and this was accepted. The total grant agreed amounts to just over £1m and will be used to lease 141 Renault Zoes for 3 years. This will increase the percentage of small fleet from 6% to approximately 28%.
- 4.3. The Renault Zoes are considered the best available suitable vehicle on the market with a range of 240 miles. This means charging is not required on a daily basis, with a weekly charge being suitable for most pool and fleet cars.
- 4.4. Some of the cars have already been delivered, however, delays due to COVID-19 has resulted in the majority of vehicles now due for delivery between September and December 2020. The intention is to apply branding to these vehicles 'I am electric to help make South Lanarkshire sustainable', demonstrated on Appendix 1.

#### **5. Switched on Fleets Heavy Goods Fund 2019-2020**

- 5.1. In addition to the funds detailed in section 4, there was an offer to bid for match funding for heavy goods vehicles through Transport Scotland's new Heavy Goods vehicles fund.
- 5.2. A proposal to purchase a light sweeper, an 11 seater minibus and a refuse collection vehicle was submitted in August 2019. This was partially approved in October 2019 with match funding secured for the sweeper and minibus. This has resulted in an additional grant of £282,000.
- 5.3. The sweeper and minibus were delivered in July and August 2020 and have been branded with the 'Sustainable South Lanarkshire' artwork, demonstrated on Appendix 2. The sweeper is the first of its kind to be in operation in the UK and the manufacturer, Schmidt, is keen to be involved in promoting its activities in South Lanarkshire. The minibus will be used all over South Lanarkshire and across different services in order for as many employees and local residents to be benefitting from this low carbon, innovative transport option.

#### **6. Switched on Fleets Fund 2020-21**

- 6.1. The SoF fund for 2020-2021 is being administered by the Energy Savings Trust, and an offer of £337,000 has been received and accepted. For the first time the fund has been split to include £90,000 to be used for charging infrastructure with the remaining £247,000 to be used for the procurement of vehicles.
- 6.2. The funding for the vehicles will be used to lease between 30 to 35 small electric vans, with infrastructure installed in appropriate locations. It is anticipated that 9 sites will be identified from which to charge and operate these vehicles. This will increase the percentage of small fleet from 28% to approximately 34%.
- 6.3. As part of this fund, an analysis of our fleet will be carried out by Energy Savings Trust and a bespoke fleet decarbonisation strategy will be provided for the Council.

## **7. Employee Implications**

- 7.1 The employees who drive the new electric fleet vehicles will need to be adequately trained. In relation to switching all pool cars to electric, there will have to be a communications campaign to prepare staff for an all electric pool car scheme.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The total grant for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 SoF light vehicles and 2019-20 heavy goods vehicles funds amounts to £1,661,728. The monies will be claimed from Transport Scotland in the financial year 2020-2021.

## **9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 9.1 Under the climate change duties, local authorities are key to driving behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions within Scotland and to meet national targets. By having electric vehicles within our fleet, there would be substantial savings in carbon from reduced fossil fuel consumption.
- 9.2 The indications in the Programme for Government 2019-2020 is that by 2025, all public sector fleet cars and light vehicles are to be electric so this goes some way to help the Council meet these targets at no cost. The decarbonisation of light vehicles is very much a key consideration of the Council's Fleet Strategy and understanding the requirements and technology developments for the transition to ultra low emission heavy commercial vehicles is also a future consideration.

## **10. Other Implications**

- 10.1 Failure to meet sustainable development and climate change objectives is one of the Council's top risks. Increasing the number of electric vehicles within our fleet will help meet these objectives as well as leading by example and showcasing low carbon technologies throughout the South Lanarkshire area.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 11.1 The Sustainable Development and Climate Change strategy has undertaken a public consultation, an equalities impact assessment and a fairer Scotland assessment.

**Michael McGlynn**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

30 July 2020

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values**

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

### **Previous References**

- ◆ None

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Carbon Management Plan 2018
- ◆ Sustainable Development Strategy 2017-2022

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact :-

Name: Julie Richmond

Designation: Carbon Management Officer

Ext: (Tel: 01698.454286)

E-mail: [julie.richmond@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:julie.richmond@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)



